

In Monsieur LEÓN JAUSSEN'S translation of GODINHO DE EREDIA'S "Account of Malacca," the Putri of Gunong Lédang is mentioned:—

" \* \* \* \* \* Gunoledam, where lived the Enchantress 'Putry Raynha' a female Magician who in like manner to the Sorceress ERICHTHO the Thessalonian transformed, by virtue of certain plants, women into tigers, into birds or into other kinds of animals." And again:—

"According to a fable common amongst the Malays, the Queen Putri, wife of PERMICURI, the founder of Malacca, retired to the mountain and she lives there still having become immortal by means of magic art. Her dwelling place is on the summit of the mountain in a cavern, where she reclines on a couch formed of the bones of the dead and she shows herself in the shape of a beautiful young girl dressed in silk \* \* \* \* \*"

The Dato' of Johol's version is probably the aboriginal version representing the Putri as an ugly old woman with a cat. GODINHO DE EREDIA'S version is the civilized Malay version treating the lady as young and beautiful and dressed in silk in accordance probably with the ideas in similar Arabic stories.

M. L.

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### DIAMONDS IN THE MALAY PENINSULA.

GARCIA DA ORTA in his *Aromatum Historia*, Lib. I, p. 171, treating of diamonds says:—"Alia est rupes ad fretum Tanjam in Malacæ tractu, quæ etiam de Rupe veteri cognominatos profert. Exigui quidem sunt sed laudati: unum tamen habent vitium quod ponderosi sint, quo nomine gratiores sunt venditoribus quam emptoribus."

"There is another rock at the Strait of Tanjam in the territory of Malacca, which produces [diamonds] of the class called old-rock diamond. They are few but valuable: however they have one fault, that they are heavy, wherefore they are more valued by the sellers than the buyers."

We have not any record of late of the discovery of diamonds in the Peninsula, but where is the Strait of Tanjam? Is it a perversion of Tanjong, and if so which Cape is it?

H. N. R.

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### DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF JUNGLE FOWL, SAID TO COME FROM BORNEO.

The specimen from which this description is taken was in confinement in the Botanic Gardens, Singapore, and was obtained in 1890 from a Malay dealer who had two of them (both males) for sale, and who said they came from Borneo. I have named this species *Gallus violaceus* on account of the conspicuous violet gloss of the hackles and tail feathers, which is the most distinguishing feature of the bird. This beautiful jungle fowl resembles *Gallus varius* of Java in having only a single throat wattle and in the hackles being round ended instead of lance shaped as in the other members of the genus. It however differs from *G. varius* in having a serrated comb, and in its colouring.

#### *Description of Adult Male.*

Comb large and serrated. Throat wattle single. A yellowish patch edged with purplish blue at each side of throat wattle. Neck hackles rounded at the ends, not lance shaped, and of a beautiful metallic violaceous purple, each feather very narrowly edged with black. Lower feathers of the neck shot with metallic green. Wings.—Primaries black slightly glossed with invisible green. Secondaries black, broadly edged with dull chestnut on the outer webs. Greater wing coverts black, glossed with invisible green, the uppermost row broadly edged on both webs with deep red brown, those of the secondaries slightly edged outwardly with chestnut. Median coverts and scapularies bright chestnut shaded with black. Lesser coverts dark green edged with black and some of the feathers glossed with metallic purple. Feathers of the back